

REMARKS

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1, 3, 5-7 are amended. No new matter is added. Claim 4 has been cancelled. Claims 1-3 and 5-7 are pending and under consideration.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §101

Claims 3, 5, and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 as allegedly being directed to non-statutory subject matter. Applicants believe that amended claims 3, 5, and 6 overcome the rejection being directed to statutory subject matter.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as allegedly being anticipated by U>S Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0188499 to Jenkins et al. (hereinafter "Jenkins").

Claims 1-3 and 5-7 are amended herewith to recite new features patentably distinguishing the claims from Jenkins.

Specifically, claim 1 patentably distinguishes over Jenkins at least by reciting "when switching from the supply-demand planning per order to the supply-demand planning based on total amount of orders, the supply-demand planning based on total amount of orders is initiated after the total amount of orders is accumulated from lower-level bases in the supply chain, and is performed so that a stock does not drop below a safety stock, and when switching from the supply-demand planning based on total amount of orders to the supply-demand planning per order, the supply-demand planning per order may be started as needed." Claim 2 is patentable at least by inheriting patentable features from claim 1.

Amended claim 3 patentably distinguishes over Jenkins at least by reciting "when switching from the supply-demand planning per order to the supply-demand planning based on total amount of orders, the supply-demand planning based on total amount of orders is initiated after the total amount of orders is accumulated from lower-level bases in the supply chain, and is performed so that a stock does not drop below a safety stock, and when switching from the supply-demand planning based on total amount of orders to the supply-demand planning per order, the supply-demand planning per order may be started as needed."

Amended independent claim 5 patentably distinguishes over Jenkins at least by reciting "wherein the making includes making the supply-demand planning so that a stock does not drop below a safety stock when the manufacturing-driven planning is selected."

Amended independent claim 6 is directed to a supply and demand planning system

having a database and a planning unit. Claim 6 and claim 7 depending from claim 6 patentably distinguishes over the prior art at least because Jenkins does not anticipate or render obvious "wherein the planning unit generates the supply-demand planning so that a stock does not drop below a safety stock when the planning unit generates the supply-demand plan according to the manufacturing-driven supply-demand planning."

CONCLUSION

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

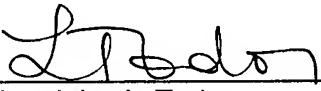
Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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